

Dear Mr. Germer,

Please enter this testimony into the record for the Senate Committee of Workforce regarding SB 718 regarding wage theft, thanks.

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Workforce Committee,

Oregon Christians Support the Fair Wage Recovery Act (SB 718/HB 3083). The scriptures are clear: "Thou shalt not steal." Sadly, some employers violate this most basic of moral principles — they steal from their workers by failing to pay them the wages they have earned. Experts call it a national "epidemic."

Wage theft occurs when employers pay workers less than the minimum wage, don't pay time-and-a-half for overtime hours, cheat on the number of hours worked, steal tips, or don't pay workers at all.

It typically victimizes those who can least afford it: the lowest-paid workers. These workers are struggling to survive, so they often stay silent for fear of losing their jobs.

The Oregon legislature has an opportunity this session to put in place stronger protections for workers, so that they get paid the wages they have earned. **As people of faith, we support The Fair Wage Recovery Act.** This legislation will protect Oregon's working families. We urge you to support the Fair Wage Recovery Act (SB 718/HB 3083).

Sincerely,

Bryan Colbourne, Board Member
Oregon Center for Christian Voices